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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12635 031632Z

65
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 /046 W
---------- 076475
R 031500Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2884
INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12635

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SGEN, BU
SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF TWO BULGARIAN BISHOPS

REF: ROME 11709; SOFIA 1694; STATE 203780

1. THE SUBJECT OF THE NOMINATION OF TWO BISHOPS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISED AT THE POPE-ZHIVKOV VISIT IN JUNE. VATICAN'S DESK OFFICER FOR BULGARIA HAS INFORMED US THAT THERE WAS NOT CLEARANCE OF CANDIDATES WITH GOB. CANDIDATES WERE, HOWEVER, CHOSEN PRIOR TO THE VISIT AND FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO GOB WAS MADE THROUGH AUSPICES OF GREEK RITE DIOCESE IN SOFIA. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE VATICAN CHOSE TO INTERPRET CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING VISIT OF ZHIVKOV TO POPE AS PROVIDING TACIT CONSENT TO GO AHEAD WITH NOTIFICATION AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENTS.

2. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: NEW BISHOP OF SOFIA, BOGDAN DOBRANOV, 60, WAS SECRETARY TO FORMER "BISHOP" WHO DIED LAST YEAR. NEW BISHOP OF NIKOPOL, VASCO SERIRECOV, HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF NIKOPOL CATHEDRAL PROVIDING RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO SOME 7,000 PERISHIONERS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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